

# **SAM Geothermal Analysis**



**Webinar** 

**Tom Ferguson** 

**June 2011** 

### **Outline**



- Introduction to SAM
- Modeling a geothermal facility
- Running SAM, Viewing Results
- Advanced Topics
- Demonstration



**SAM Geothermal Analysis** 

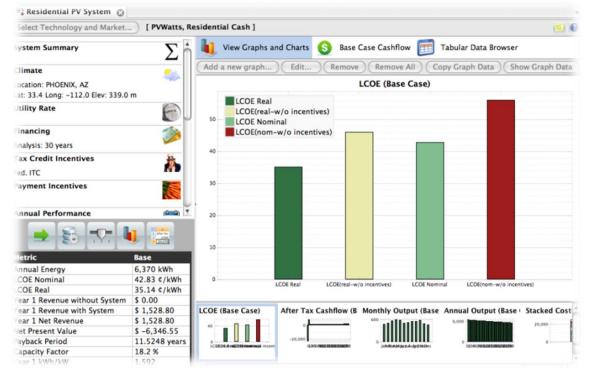
### **INTRODUCTION TO SAM**

### What is SAM?



The System Advisor Model (SAM) is a free computer program that calculates a renewable energy system's energy output, and calculates the cost of energy for a renewable energy project over the life of the project.

These calculations are done using detailed performance models, a detailed cash flow finance model, and a library of reasonable default values for each technology and target market.



### What can you do with SAM?



- Model solar, wind, and geothermal power systems in a single application
- Access high-quality performance and economic models developed by NREL, Sandia, and other partners
- Evaluate and compare options using consistent models across technologies
- Calculate economic metrics such as LCOE, NPV, payback for projects in different markets
- Perform parametric and uncertainty analyses
- Present modeling results in graphs and tables

### **Technologies & Markets**



- Photovoltaics
- Concentrating Solar Power
  - Parabolic Troughs
  - Power Towers
  - Dish-Stirling
- Solar Water Heating
- Wind turbines and farms
- Geothermal power plants

#### **Key outputs**

- Hourly energy production (kWh)
- Capacity factor

- Residential, commercial, and utility-scale projects
- Installation and operating costs
- Tax credit and payment incentives
- Complex electric utility rates

#### **Key outputs**

- Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE)
- Payback
- Net present value
- Multi-year cash flow

# **Background**









Developed by the Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories

#### Vision

- Model different renewable energy projects in a single platform
- Facilitate technology comparison by handling performance, costs and financing consistently across technologies
- Make high-quality performance models developed by NREL,
   Sandia, and other partners available to the public

### **Users and Applications**



#### Feasibility studies

 Project developers, Federal Energy Management Program

#### Use as benchmark for other models

System integrators and utilities

#### Research projects

Universities and engineering firms

Plant acceptance testing for parabolic trough systems

# Evaluate technology research opportunities and grant proposals

Department of Energy

#### 35,000+ Downloads

Manufacturers
Engineering Firms
Consultants
Developers
Venture Capitalists
Policy Analysts

### **Current Development Team**



#### Management

Nate Blair, NREL

### Programming

- Aron Dobos, NREL
- Steven Janzou, NREL\*
- Tom Ferguson, NREL\*

#### PV Model Validation

- Chris Cameron, Sandia

#### **Photovoltaics**

Bolko von Roedern, NREL

# Concentrating Solar Power

- Mark Mehos, NREL
- Craig Turchi, NREL

### Water Heating

- Jay Burch, NREL
- Craig Christensen, NREL

#### Geothermal

Chad Augustine, NREL

# Documentation and User Support

Paul Gilman, NREL\*

<sup>\*</sup> Contractors

### Geothermal Modeling capabilities in SAM



SAM has two models related to geothermal electricity production: Geothermal Power, and Geothermal Co-Production

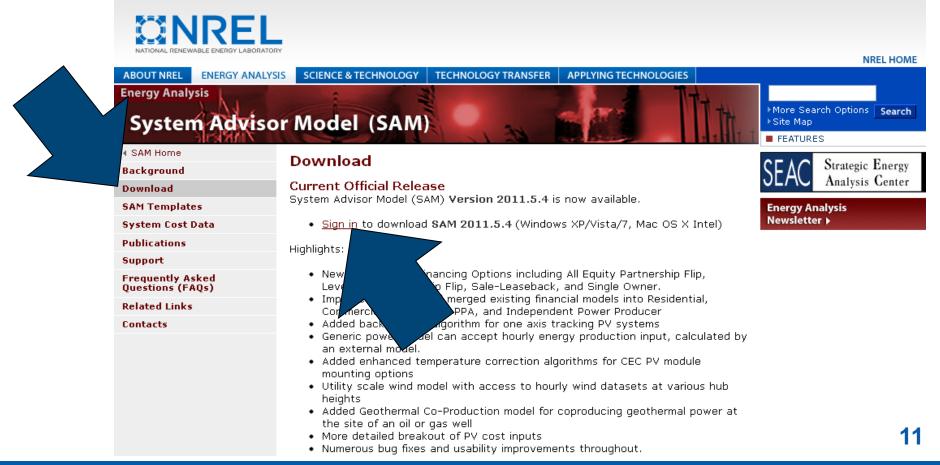
- Geothermal power model
  - Based on the "Geothermal Electricity Technology Evaluation Model" (GETEM)
  - Performance model is run monthly over lifetime of project
  - Lookup resource information for locations in continental US
  - Predicts resource degradation over years
  - Accounts for parasitic losses from pumps
- Geothermal co-production model
  - Simple calculation of thermal or utilization efficiency to determine electrical output from thermal energy available, no simulation
  - Choose between theoretical models, or model output based on a PureCycle unit

# **Downloading SAM**



### http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/sam

1) Sign in 2) Complete registration form 3) Download



# **Getting Help**



### Online Help and User Guide

Help menu and buttons



#### **SAM Website**

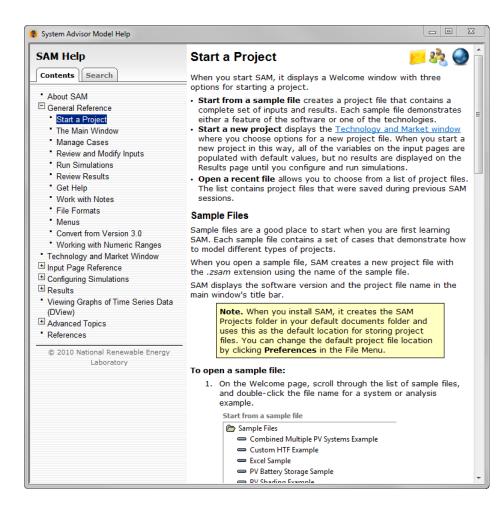
http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/sam

### Google Groups

 http://groups.google.com/group/samuser-group

### **Email User Support**

solar.advisor.support@nrel.gov





**SAM Geothermal Analysis** 

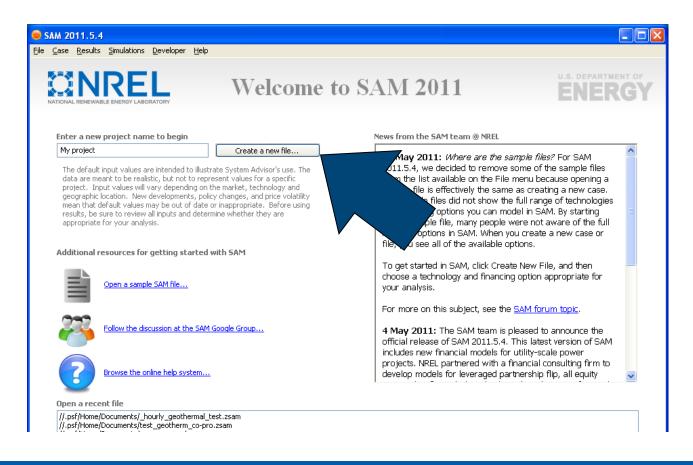
# MODELING A GEOTHERMAL FACILITY

### **Initial Screen**



#### SAM's current startup screen

 Click the "Create a new file..." button to create a case and choose the technology option and financing option



# Choosing to model geothermal



- 1) Click on "Geothermal"
- 2) Select the "Geothermal Power" sub-category.
  - With the technology sub-category selected, the appropriate financing categories will appear.
- 3) Click on "Utility Market"
- 4) Select IPP



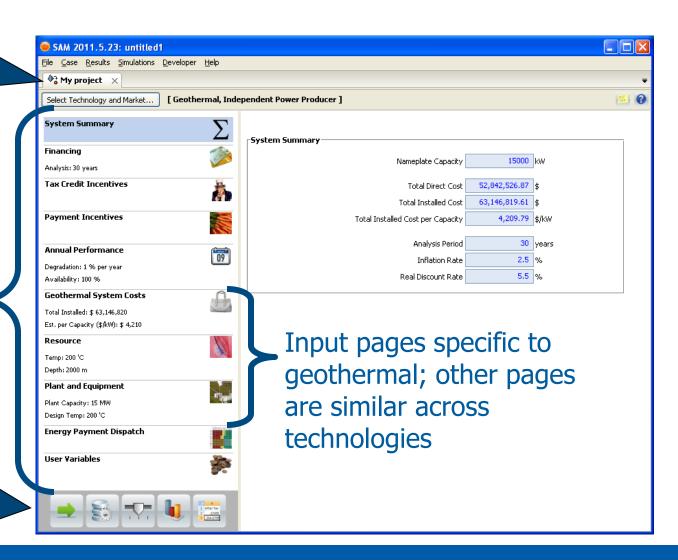
### **Inputs - General**



The case you created becomes a tab.

Select different input pages by clicking an item in this list

Run the model



### Geothermal model input requirements



#### Resource information

temperature, depth, flow rate, and type (hydrothermal or EGS)

#### Costs

- Drilling, exploration, production, and injection
- Plant, piping and related equipment
- Pumps and casing
- O&M

### Financial assumptions

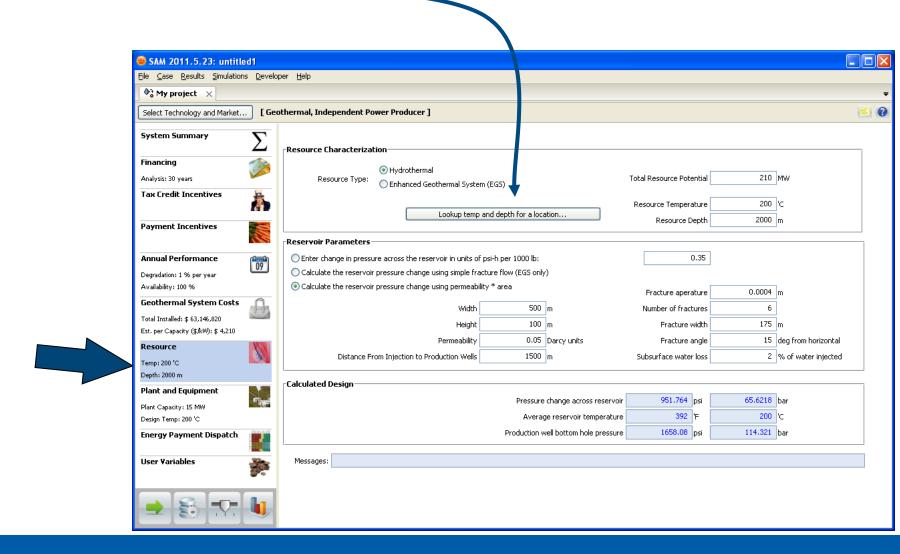
- Loan parameters for all projects
- Target IRR for utility projects
- Incentives and tax credits

Reservoir parameters to calculate pressure change across the reservoir

### Inputs – Geothermal Resource



SAM can lookup geothermal resource data for many places in the continental US

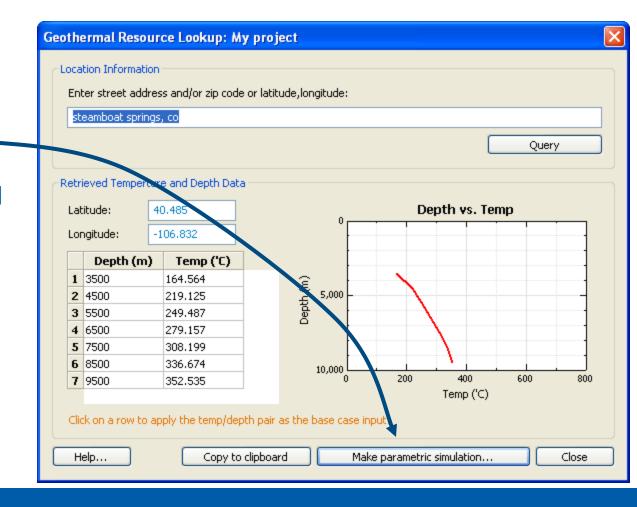


### Inputs - Geothermal Resource



Clicking the "Lookup temp and depth for a location..." button will bring up the Geothermal Resource Lookup dialog box

If SAM finds data for the location, it will display a temperature vs. depth graph. Then you can have SAM automatically enter — multiple values for temperature and depth and do a run for each input (called a "parametric" simulation).



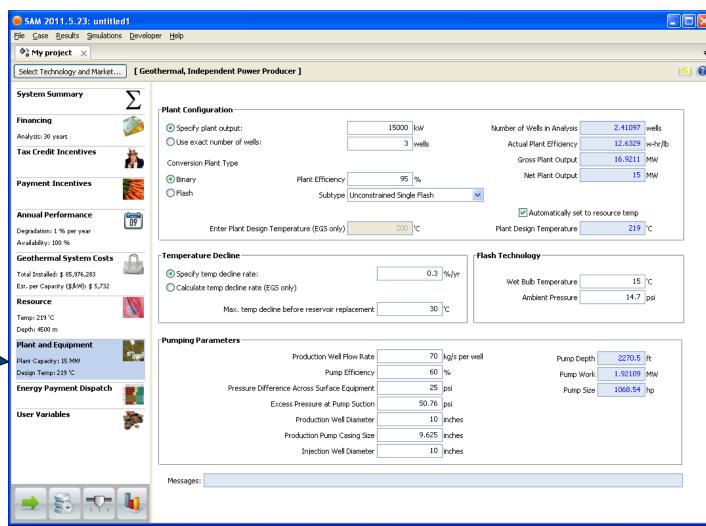
# Inputs – Plant and Equipment



#### Here you can choose:

- How to specify the size of the project: (plant size vs. # of wells)
- What type of plant to model (Binary vs. Flash)
- How to calculate the temperature decline
- Resource flow rate





# Inputs – System Costs



#### Three categories of costs:

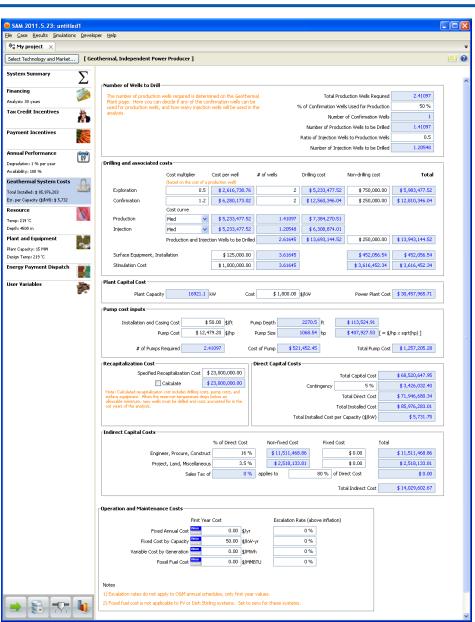
#### Cost to build

- Direct & indirect capital
- Drilling & stimulation
- Surface equipment
- Pumps and casing



Operating costs

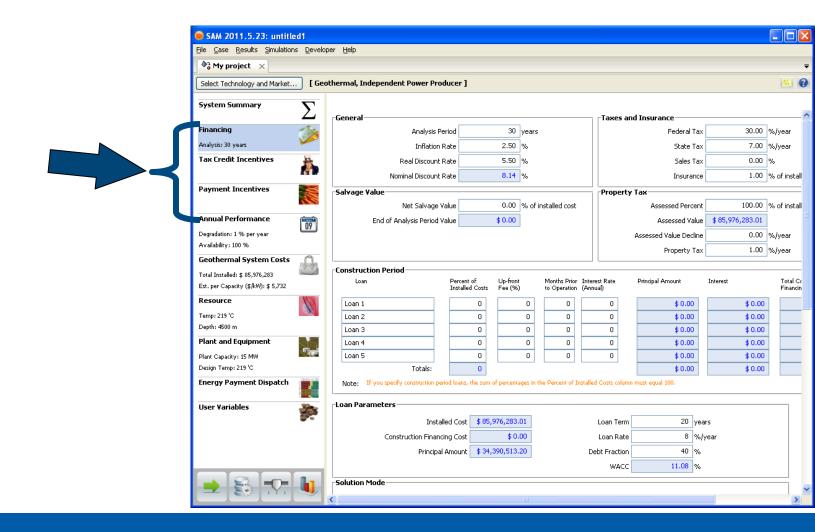
Recapitalization costs



### **Inputs – Financial Assumptions**



Financial inputs are entered on three pages: Financing, Tax Credit Incentives, and Payment Incentives



### Co-Production vs. Geothermal Power



#### Resource

- Co-Production model assumes a steady state for the temperature of the resource, essentially expecting that the heat recovered from the co-produced water has no impact on the resource temperature
- Geothermal Power model expects temperature declines over time and tries to account for costs necessary to replace the resource

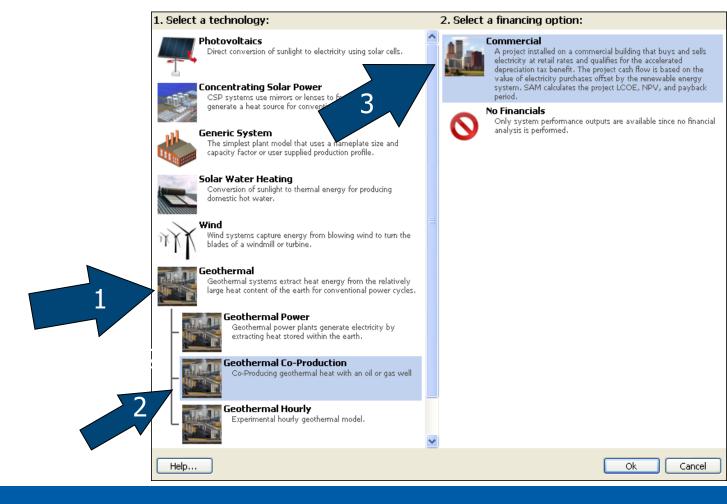
#### **Parasitic Power**

- Co-Production model simply calculates a possible electrical generation capacity based on thermodynamics or performance curves for existing generation units
- Geothermal Power model attempts to account for pumping energy and associated costs

# Choosing to model co-production



- 1) Click on "Geothermal"
- 2) Select the "Geothermal Co-Production" sub-category.
- 3) Click on "Commercial Market"

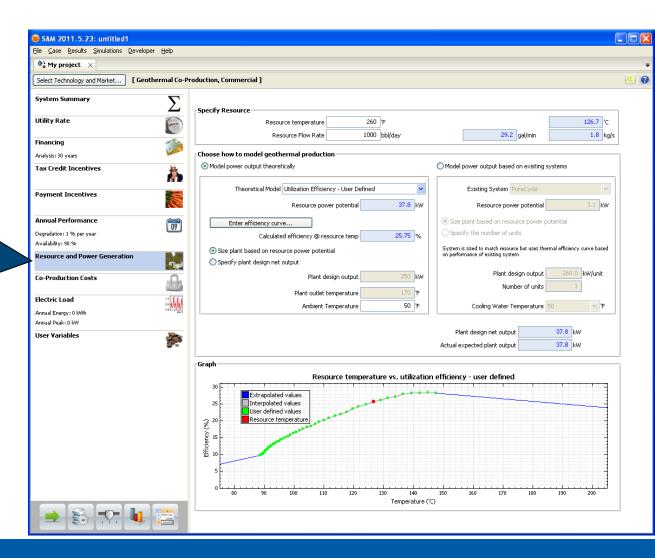


### Inputs - General Co-Production



SAM has two input pages specific to the Co-Production model: Resource and Power Generation, and Co-Production Costs

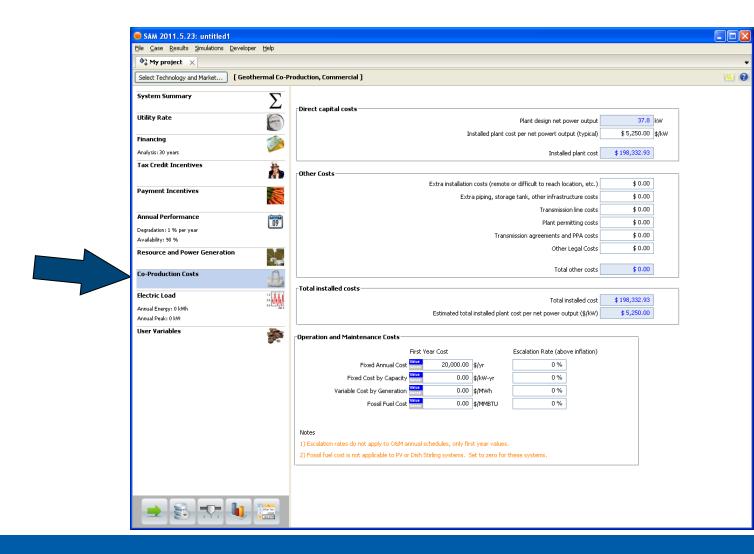
All of the non-cost inputs are entered on the "Resource and Power Generation" input page



### Inputs – Costs for Co-Production



SAM's Co-Production Cost input page contains inputs for capital and O&M costs





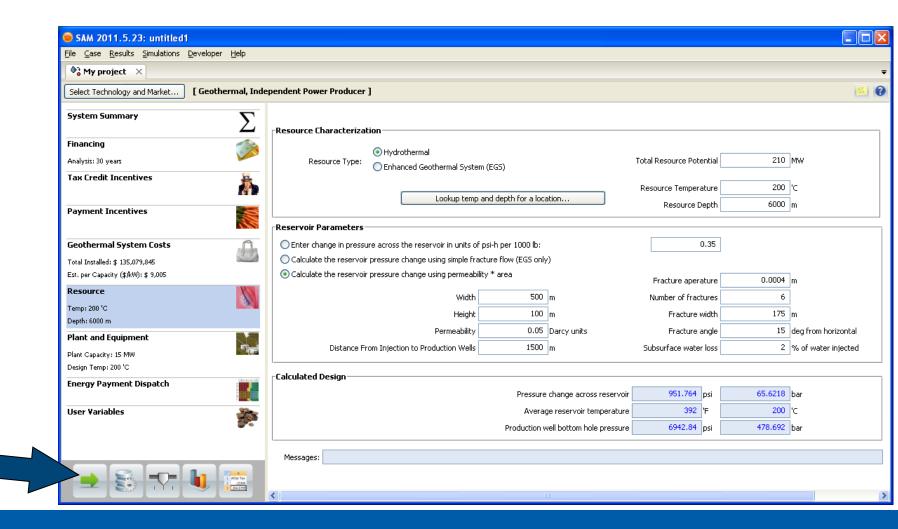
**SAM Geothermal Analysis** 

# **RUNNING SAM, OUTPUTS**

# Running the model



#### Click the green arrow on the bottom left to run the model



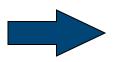
# **Default Result Page**

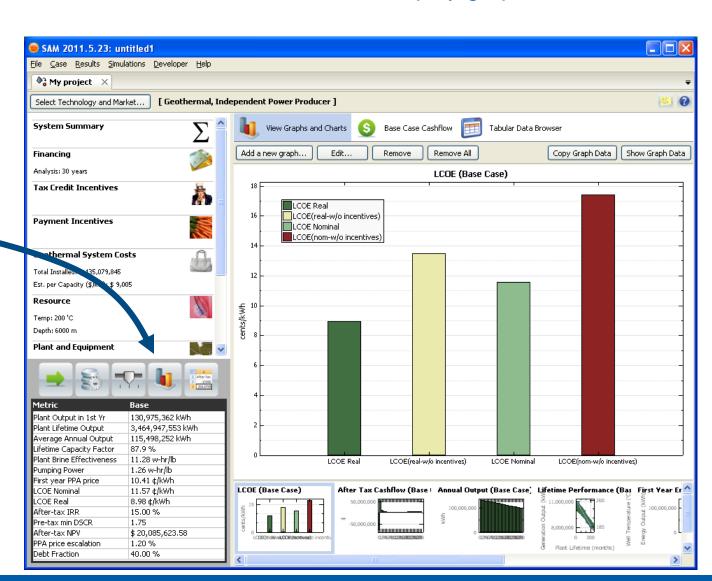


When SAM completes the model run, it will default to display graphic results

You can always see the most current set of results by clicking on the "Results" button

When showing results, SAM displays basic metrics on the bottom left

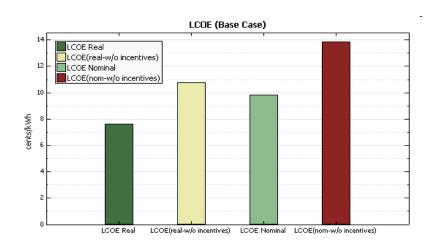


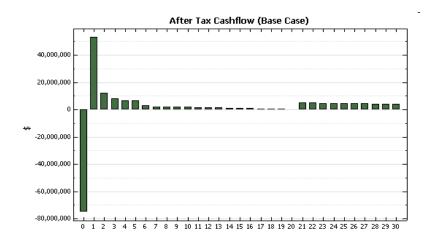


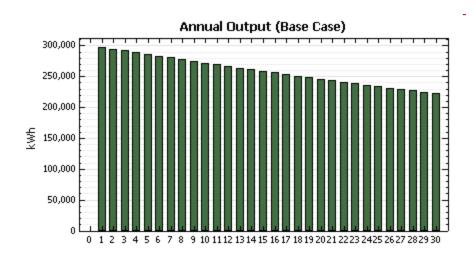
# Results - Default Graphs



SAM creates several graphs by default, showing financial and energy generation results





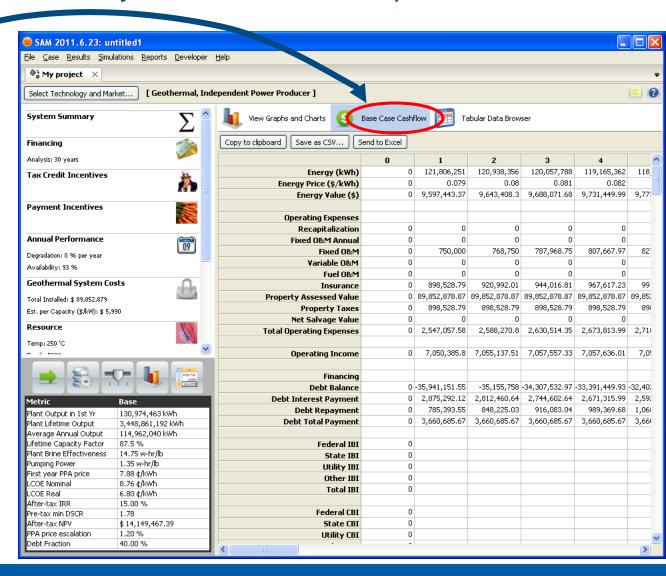


### Results – Tabular Cash Flow



#### Numeric values can easily be viewed and exported

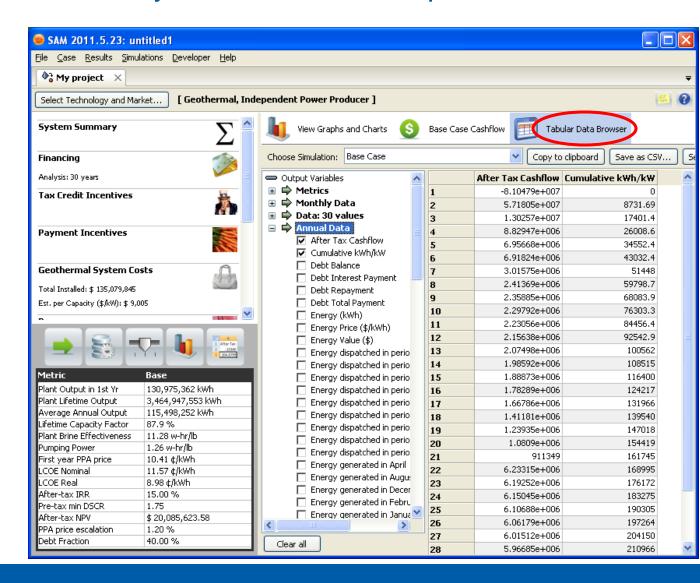
Select
"Base Case Cashflow"
or
"Tabular Data Browser"
to view numeric data



### Results – Tabular Data Browser



#### Numeric values can easily be viewed and exported





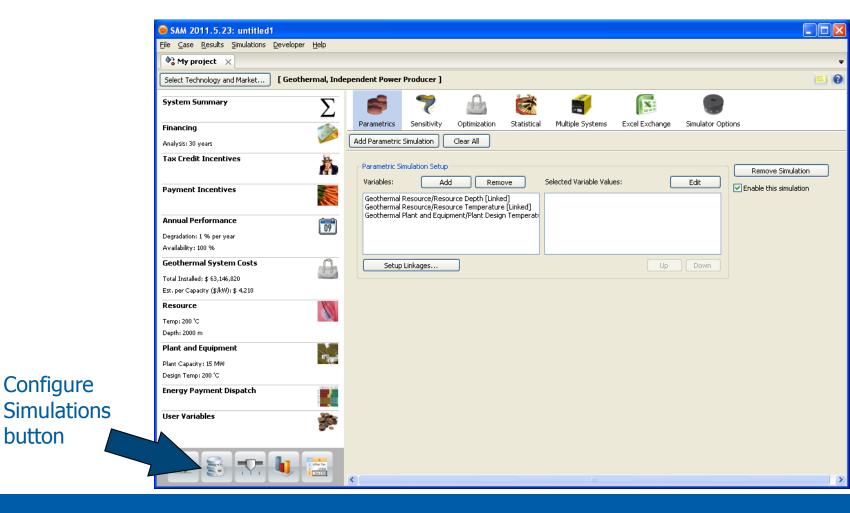
**SAM Geothermal Analysis** 

### **ADVANCED TOPICS**

### **Advanced Topics – Simulations**



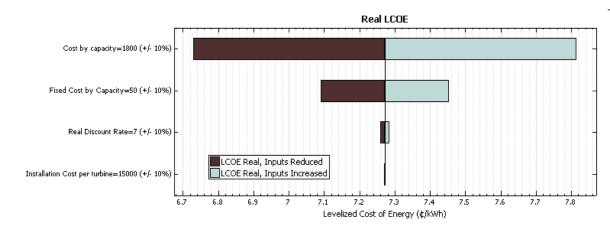
Most advanced modeling techniques are accessed through the "Simulations" menu, or the "Configure Simulations" button on the bottom left

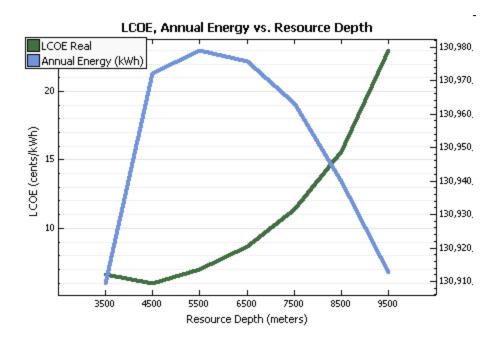


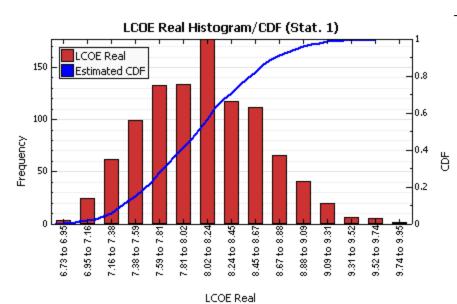
### **Advanced Topics - Uncertainty**



Graphic outputs from uncertainty modeling in SAM







# **Advanced Topics - Other**



#### Excel Exchange (Linking with Excel on Windows)

- Use Excel to calculate input values for SAM to use in analysis
- e.g. costs could be calculated externally in detailed spreadsheet and automatically updated on SAM's cost input page

#### Scripting - SAMUL

- A language, similar to VBA, that allows a user to control SAM runs
- Easier than using the full API, since no external development environment is necessary

#### API

- SAM has a full featured Application Programming Interface
- SAM will generate example code in C, VBA, Phython, and Matlab to show how to run a SAM analysis

See help and sample files for more information

# **Thank You!**



**SAM Geothermal Analysis** 

**DEMO**